



**A Seasonal Shift:
Embrace the Fall**

Fall 2025

**RHODE ISLAND FEDERATION OF
GARDEN CLUBS, INC.**

Newsletter

Presidents Report

Kathleen Damiani

Fall RIFGC Presidents Message

Well, the winter months are upon us! Our gardens have been put to bed and darkness arrives early, but I hope everyone enjoyed a fun Halloween and a wonderful Thanksgiving. The Christmas season is here, bringing with it holiday parties, garden clubs decorating around their cities, shopping, and precious time with family.

At the Fall NEGC convention, I'm proud to say our state won 10 different awards, more than any other state! Congratulations to all the winning clubs, and special recognition to Blakely Szosz for her Flower Show Schedule and to De Felman and Marie Kallis for their award-winning floral designs. Your hard work paid off! Congratulations also to our two finalists in the New England Photo Contest, Jeanie Smith from Western Cranston GC and Ileene Chernoff from Portsmouth GC. Their pictures were outstanding!

I'm excited to announce the Botanical Arts schedule for our "Dearly Beloved" flower show in April is now available! Judy is ready for designers to sign up, and Blakely Szosz has been working hard on both the schedule and staging. Please don't wait to register for the class that interests you – I know this is going to be a great show!

The Finance Committee has finalized revisions to the bylaws to align them with 501(c)(3) guidelines. Executive board members should have received a hard copy of the changes and a follow-up email by now. There will be a mandatory Zoom meeting on January 8th at 6:00 PM where the Finance Committee will address any questions or concerns and hopefully vote to accept the revisions.

Great news, the second Design Study class on January 14th is currently full, but Maggie Rezendes can add you to a waiting list. If you're still on the fence about the February 18th, 2026 class, I suggest you don't wait! Contact Maggie at maggiekeene@yahoo.com to register and be sure to give her your email and phone number. The first class was so much fun!

Save the date for RIFGC Education Day on Thursday, March 5th at the William Hall Library. I'm currently waiting for more details, but these events are packed with valuable information, not to be missed!

Looking ahead to spring, several clubs are working on Art in Bloom shows and two clubs are planning a garden tour. Something wonderful to anticipate on those cold winter nights! More information to come as we get closer.

I'm looking forward to all the holiday parties, festivities, and ugly sweater parties! Happy Holidays to everyone, no matter what you celebrate. Enjoy your time with family and friends, that's what truly matters!

Happy Holidays!
Kathleen Damian



2025-2026 Calendar

2025

Dec. 11, 2025 RIFGC Holiday Lunch 39 West Restaurant 39 Phenix Ave. Cranston

Dec. 15, 2025 NGC Award Submissions due to RIFGC Awards Chairs

2026

Jan 1, 2026 RIFGC Member Award of Honor Application is due to RIFGC Awards Chairs

Jan 7, 2026 NGC Youth Contest Deadline to submit to a sponsoring garden club.

Jan 10, 2026 Styrofoam Recycling Day 9 a.m. to noon. St. Andrew's by the Sea Church Little Compton. See Pres. Email Blast dated Nov 18 for flyer and information.

Jan 14, 2026 Design Study Workshop led by Ann Huntoon at Hattie Ide Chaffee 200 Wampanoag Trail Riverside, RI. Must be registered for this class. Contact: Maggie Rezendes 508.361.9065maggiekeene@yahoo.com

Jan 22, 2026 RIFGC Board Meeting RW Casino 9:30 Hospitality 10:00 Meeting.

Feb. 15, 2026 RIFGC State Awards Application is due to RIFGC Awards Chairs

Feb. 18, 2026 Design Study Workshop led by Candace Morgenstern at RI Builders Association Building 450 Veterans Memorial Pkwy Unit 301 East Providence. Must be registered for this class. Contact: Maggie Rezendes 508.361.9065maggiekeene@yahoo.com

Feb. 19-22, 2026 Connecticut Flower & Garden Show sponsored by Federation Garden Club of Ct. CT Convention Center, 100 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT

Feb. 26, 2026 RIFGC Board Meeting RW Casino 9:30am Social 10:00 Meeting

Feb. 26-March 1, 2026 Flora in Winter Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, MA

March 5, 2026 Education Day William Hall Library Auditorium 1825 Broad Street Cranston

March 26, 2026 RIFGC Board Meeting RW Casino 9:30am Social 10:00 Meeting

April 10-12, 2026 RIFGC Design Specialty Flower Show (worker bees start Monday April 6)

April 15-21, 2026 RIFGC Paris Tour by Collette Tours

April 23, 2026 Annual Luncheon/Awards Banquet Quonset O Club with Floral designer Dennis Delsignor

May 4-6, 2026 NGC Annual Convention St Louis Missouri

May 15-17, 2026 Hameho Garden Club presents Art in Bloom more information to come.

June 4, 2026 RIFGC Board Meeting Hattie Ide Chaffee Home 200 Wampanoag Trail Riverside

June 4, 2026 RIFGC Judges Council an NGC Horticulture Show at Hattie Ide Chaffee Home . Details forthcoming.

June 19, 2026 The Newport Flower Show "Pearls of Newport" tickets online starting in April.

June 20, 2026 Edgewood GC Garden Tour

June 23, 2026 Barrington GC Garden Tour

Cover Photo by Barbara Curry, Treasurer Edgewood G.C. Displaying Kokedama recently a garden club workshop.

All Things Club Oriented

Gentian Garden Club



Design by member Gina Natalizia Huntoon.



Ann Huntoon, club member
'Talking Turkey'
(check out the socks)

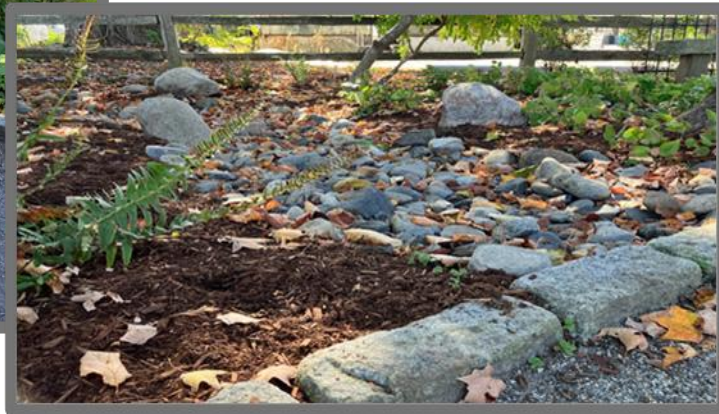


Pumpkin fun at North Scituate Library. Take away bags to do this pumpkin project was handed out and available for pickup.





Congratulations to the Gentian Garden Club for the grant that was awarded to them from the Scituate Art Festival. This allows the club to 'finish' the rehabilitation of the Wildflower Garden. Planting new specimens this fall will allow them to be well established for next season.



Pres. Cheryl Kingma instructing on plant material. She along with Carolyn, Glenn, Edna, Marilyn mentored this flower-arranging workshop sponsored by the club.
"When the Leaves Fly, Bring the Flowers Inside."





What's the BUZZ?
The Gentian GC 'BEE' ready for the
Scituate Business Association Scarecrow Festival!



Morning Cleanup at the Wildflower
Garden! We will sleep in January!





Portsmouth GC Fall Cleanup

Portsmouth GC members planting bulbs for spring time beauty.



Annually the Portsmouth Garden Club creates and donates 15 floral arrangements to the town library for their annual fundraiser "Taste Of Portsmouth" in November.



Portsmouth Garden Club invited De Feldman, Pres. of RIFGC Judges Council to speak on 'Flower Show in a Box'.

'Flower Show in a Box' has all the information and materials to host a Small Standard Flower Show. This gives a hand up to clubs having a flower show with a sample schedule, ribbons, entry cards and more all included.

They also had samples of horticulture on display to learn more about identifying and exhibiting.

(Check out the 'Flower Show in a Box' flyer in this newsletter for more information.)



Western Cranston G.C. assisted in hospitality at the Sprague Mansion Cranston Day event on August 26, 2025.

The flower arrangements were donated and made by Presidents Sharron Casey and Linda Alves.

Seated L to R Beth Reale Karen Carloni

Standing L to R Sally Ann Brown, Donna Andrews, Nancy Zompa and Jeanie Smith



Nancy Zompa, Patricia Smith, Clara Ruzzo, Karen Carloni, Jeanie Smith, Linda Alves, Pat Yearwood and Jeanne Bondarevskis.



Western Cranston Garden Club (WCGC) has had a very busy fall. One of our favorite projects has always been Therapy for Seniors. This year we are excited to be working with Hope Alzheimer's Center in Cranston, RI. The Hope Center offers a diverse daily activity schedule that is enjoyable and therapeutic for people with Alzheimer's disease and other memory disorders. WCGC will do 4 hands-on holiday programs or seasonal flower arranging. With 8-10 Club volunteers we create "A Design Study" session similar to those offered by RIFGC. Arrangement Sample, container, floral material and decorative enhancements.

At the end of the session, each participant has an arrangement to bring home. With remaining material, WCGC makes arrangements for the Center. And we all have an enjoyable time

Plum Beach Garden Club
Award of Excellence
Presented to Tim
Cranston

In appreciation of his invaluable roles as historian and storyteller, whose columns, books, walking tours, and lectures have captured the spirit of this community.

Through his work, the vibrant and rich history of North Kingstown-especially Historic Wickford Village

Presented by Kathleen
Romeo
9 September 2025



Kathleen Romeo, PBGC, Tim Cranston and Sue Jones, Pres of PBGC



Plum Beach Garden Club presents
Art in Bloom

Enjoy the delightful combination of flower show and art exhibit as floral designers create arrangements inspired by works of art.

Open House - Saturday, September 20th

12 to 3pm \$25-30pp

Floral demonstrations Libations & Appetizers

St Bernard Church, Wickford, RI



PBGC Pat Morgan, 1st V President, Sue Jones, President and Elaine Lemieux, Chair of the Art in Bloom



Designer Darlene Vincent, PBGC



Designer Elaine Lemieux ,PBGC

Designer Andrea Sarrasin, PBGC



It's Scarecrow Season!
PBGC members Chris Frnald,
Pres. Sue Jones and Darlene Vincent add
seasonal charm to Wickford's End of Main
gardens.



PBGC club members Nancy Donohue, Kathy Barrette, Darlene Vincent, Betsy Coghlin, Sandy Secret and Becky Dower collaborate with the Roberts Health Center in North Kingstown to create fall flower arrangements.



PBGC Youth Education returned to continue the courtyard revitalization with the Davisville Middle School. Spring 2026 the club is scheduled with the students planning and planting a pollinator garden and herb raised beds.

Pictured: Kelly G-Smith, Sharon Pickering, Mel Kastanotis, Harlyn Benetti, Stephanie Serino (Youth Ed Chair) and Donna VanKeuren.



Plum Beach Garden Club donated 200 daffodil bulbs for the Community Garden. Vice Pres. Pat Padula Morgan and friends.



Garden Co-Steward and BGC Member Lynn Seacord gives a tour of the Barrington Resilience Garden.



Creating foraged Wreaths at Barrington Farm School.

BGC floral designs at the Barrington Public Library.



BGC President Maria and Florence Gabaude delivering the clubs donations of bread, muffin and brownie mixes to #Tapin.

BBG Design Program with Michael Derouin.



'Learning something new and have fun doing it'



Edgewood GC prevailed after postponing April Arbor Day event due to scheduling. A tree was planted on the grounds of Edgewood Highlands Elementary School in October. White Oak sapling was supplied by Rhode Island Tree Council.





Several members joined Sarah Lee, former club president, who gave a lesson to second graders on the importance of trees.

Sarah is joined by member Martha Carrara as she holds a tree trunk cutting showing age rings as Sarah describes.



(Photos by Betty Paroli, member of EGC)

Smiles all around on this get your hands dirty workshop. EGC Kokedama Workshop was led by Judy Gray, club member.

Kokedama (苔玉) is a Japanese art form meaning "moss ball," a style of container less gardening where a plant's root ball is wrapped in soil and moss, then bound with string.



Michael Seebeck



(Left) clockwise, Joann Scappaticci, Pat Vengaro, Kathy Armstonr, and Julie Haggis

Lynne Wickes, Gail Kelleher, and Deborah Telles-Palladino



Kelly & Patricia McLaughlin
(Photos by Kathleen Duffy)



(Left) Mandy, Michele Faust, and Joyce Fleischer



Deb Dierman, a member of CWGC recently designed at the Plum Beach GC Art in Bloom Show in September. The artwork titled, "Hilda's House" by artist Kathy Thomas, Bristol Garden Club.

Cindy-Wood GC formally dedicated its Pollinator Pathway Garden at Swift Community Center in East Greenwich. Leslie Piers, Pres. of CWGC with guest speaker Jana Hogan, Ex. Director from Pollinator Pathway. Pres. Emeritus Jane Shaw with Marilyn Bollengier Vice Pres. of CWGC.



Many thanks were given to RIFGC for their continuous support, along with the town managers and workers providing the space, and the labor in assisting to make this space for the community.

Pictured: Members of Cindy-Wood Garden Club along with Kathleen Damiani, Pres of RIFGC were present for the dedication and the unveiling of the rock with the club's logo.



Everything was coming up pumpkins at the clubs Thanksgiving Centerpiece Workshop!



Maggie Rezendes, designer and member of Bristol GC participated in the Plum Beach GC Art in Bloom. Both paintings are the work of Kathy Thomas, artist and member of BGC.



Carol Glanville, member of Bristol GC shared her expertise in Ikebana. Members were able to design their own floral displays. Pictured are some examples of designs created by members. (randomly selected)



Bristol Garden Club's 6th Annual Daffodil Sale In October. Proceeds go to the BGC Daffodil Project with the Town of Bristol. Over 1500 bulbs were planted in October with loads of hardworking volunteers.





Here are some members who participated in the Fall Cleanup at Mrs. Perry's Garden. This is one of several areas maintained by BGC members, in collaboration with town volunteers.



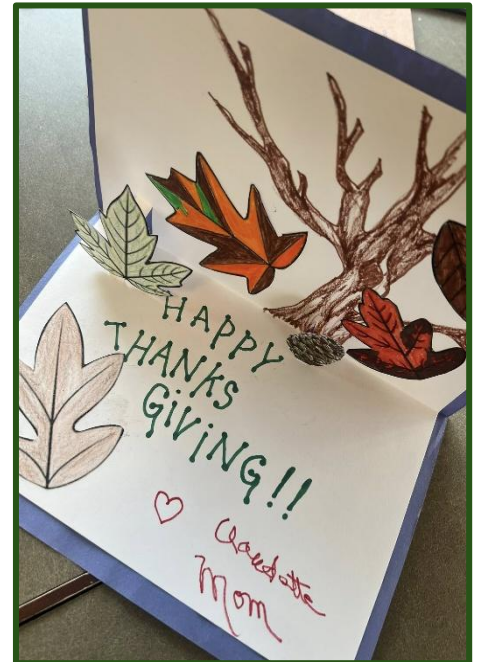
Annually the Bristol GC holds their Pumpkin Centerpiece Sale at Mt Hope.



Vicki Iannuccillo (above) and Vera Bowen (right), club members did a presentation on Holiday Floral Displays at the club's Nov. meeting.



Working with fall drawings, colorful pens, eye for design Hattie Ide Chaffee GC assisted members and the homes residents in making these Holiday Cards for Thanksgiving.



A club member assisting others on their on-hands workshop using fresh pumpkins leaves from nature combining with craft accessories.

Happy Thanksgiving!





Guest Speakers

"Soil Health: Compost Tea, Char and Composting" Donald Demers of Buxton Hollow Farm Natural Products Woonsocket



Whale Rock Lavender of Newport, 100% organically cultivated with over 2800 plants of fragrant and culinary lavender varieties.

A new feature into the club's annual meeting agenda: short presentations by club members describing their personal experience on a significant garden or landscape project.



Perry Wheelock described her formidable career with the US Park Service, where her responsibilities included oversight of projects significant to the cultural landscape of the DC Capital Region.



Linda Sedgewick, who spoke of her successful work and award winning outcomes forcing bulbs for presentation at the annual Philadelphia Garden Show.



President Elizabeth Hazard presenting a check for \$2,000 to the Director of the Jamestown Philomenian Library, Lisa Sheley. The check represents a donation from the Jamestown Garden Club to the Library in support of its recent Capital Campaign for improvements to the Library. This gift will fund the planting of new shrubs on the Library grounds.

(L to R): Jamestown Philomenian Library Director Lisa Sheley, Library Board Member Jean Burditt, and Jamestown Garden Club President Elizabeth Hazard

The Weather Was Pleasant During Both Garden Tours This Year.



Club members were treated to a tour of the Green Animals Topiary Gardens and a talk by Jeff Curtis, The Preservation Society's Director of Gardens and Grounds, on the subject of "Cultivating Hedges"

Member Evelyn Rhodes

Private Tour of the Justin McLaughlin Dahia Garden in Newport



(Standing L to R): Justin McLaughlin, Sue Nicholson, Jane Garnett, Kim Westcott, Clay Boden, Wendy Ross
(Seated L to R): Elizabeth Hazard, Vivi Valentine

Meeting Organizers

Trudy Coxe and Dona Gibb welcomed the owners of Whale Rock Lavender in Newport.



Sept. Secret Garden Tour
Dorothy Denault and Elle Burgess



Paper Flower Workshop
Members (L to R) Julie Gaither, Wendy Ross, Jan Franke, Polly Hutcheson



November Meeting with club member Sue Redden on Floral Design.



L-R Priscilla DiMarco, Susan Eschrich, Sue Kelley, and Linda Poole



Club created terrariums from donations of containers, plant material, and materials by making this project virtually at no expense. These were sold at the Barrington Women's Holiday Fair. Profits will help fund our community garden projects.



Hameho members each week, all year deliver flowers, floral designs, or plants to the Barrington Peck Center For Adult Enrichment. Eileen Dennis used Aster, Dahlia, Zinnia, and Mahogany Splendor foliage in this fall design.



Susan Escherich, Sogetsu Design for the 139th New England Fall Flower Show that took place at Elm Bank, headquarters of the Mass. Horticulture Society.

Bird Trivia

Sue Redden, RIFGC Bird Chairman

Red-Tailed Hawk

This is probably the most common hawk in North America. If you have sharp eyes you will see several individuals on almost any long car ride, anywhere. Red-tailed Hawks soar above open fields, slowly turning circles on their broad, rounded wings. Other times you will see them atop telephone poles, eyes fixed on the ground to catch the movements of a vole or a rabbit, or simply waiting out cold weather before climbing a thermal updraft into the sky.

You will never see this bird in your backyard. Red-tailed Hawks eat mostly mammals, so they are less likely to visit a popular feeder than a Cooper's or Sharp-shinned hawk is. It is very rare for a Red-tailed Hawk to go after dogs or cats.

The Red-tailed Hawk has a chilling, raspy scream that sounds exactly like a raptor should sound. Whenever a hawk or eagle appears onscreen, no matter what species, the shrill cry on the soundtrack is almost always a Red-tailed Hawk.

Red-tailed Hawks begin creating a nest between January and April. Both male and female gather materials, the female does most of the work, it takes 4 -7 days to complete. Egg laying might not begin for another 3 – 5 weeks. The baby birds are fed by their parents. The chicks can sit up by day 15 and feed themselves at day 21, The adult female continues to brood her young to keep them warm and dry until day 30-36 days old. The male provides most of the food for the female and the chicks. The chicks leave the nest at day 46.

The best way to find a Red-tailed Hawk is to go for a drive, keeping your eyes peeled along fenceposts and in the sky. Chances are good that the first hawk you see will be a Red-tailed Hawk. Just look for the buteo shape (broad, rounded wings; short tail), then check field marks like the dark bars on the leading edge of the wing.



New England Garden Clubs, Inc 9th Annual Meeting October 14-15

Hosted by
The Federated Garden Clubs of
Connecticut, Inc.

Event Highlights

NEGC Photography Show

Reception honoring Polly Brooks, NEGC Director, and her guest Donna Donnelly, NGC President, Susan Miner, NGC 3rd Vice President.

NEGC Achievement Awards Ceremony

Guest Speakers

Susan Quincy, Ct Dept of Energy and Environmental Protection

Michael Derouin, AIFD-AAF-PFCI Floral Artist and Educator

Renee Marsh Advanced Master Gardener & Horticulturalist "Garden Jeopardy"



Nan Merolla Pres of FGCC (L-2nd) Polly Brooks, NEGC Director(L-2nd) Donna Donnelly, Pres of NGC(L-2nd)
Vicki Iannuccillo and Ilene Chernoff





1st Row L-R Candace Morgenstern, Sandi Tinyk, Heather Fraga, Vicki Iannicullo, De Feldman
 2nd Row L-R Eileen Dennis, Kathleen Damiami, Susan Miner, NGC 3rd Vice Pres., Sally Troup and Vera Bowen

**NEGC Achievement Awards
 Congratulations!**



**The Marie E. Lewis Conservation of
 Natural Resources Award
 Yearbook Award Class 6**



**An Award of Recognition
 The Nancy H. Atwell Award**



**Yearbook Award Class 3
 Gentian Garden Club**



Yearbook Award Class 1



**The Sears Civic Beautification Award
 Western Cranston GC**



**The Mary Louise Marks Smith Flower Show Award
 RIFGC Schedule written by Blakely Szosz, Barrington GC**

The Maria J. Nahom Table Design Award
Maria Kallis, Barrington GC



Deanna J. Mozzochi Creative Design Award
De Feldman, Barrington GC



THE 2025 NEGC PHOTO SHOW

“WE GROW GARDENS & GARDENERS”

This is the theme for NEGC Director Polly Brokks
The Class Titles are the Themes of our NE State Presidents

Finalists' images were displayed at the
Annual Meeting of
The New England Garden Clubs, Inc.
October 14-15
Rocky Hill Ct



Class 5

“Cultivate Your Strengths – Share Your Knowledge: - RI
A nature photograph featuring an example(s) of resilience
and /or adaptation in nature.

Ileene Chernoff, member of Portsmouth GC

Bloomin' Perseverance

**She said, “ it is nice to represent our state under their
selected theme idea".**

The photo will go onto 2025 New England Camera Club
competitions. This is her second year that she was a
finalist. In addition, she was accepted into the NEGC new
Pilot Photography Judging Team Program.

Congratulations Ileene. Well done!





Class 1

“Bee Resilient: Garden for Nature” CT

A Close-up or macro photograph featuring pollination.

Gail Burmeister, member of Bristol GC

“Just a Light Dusting”

The photo will go onto 2025 New England Camera Club competitions.

Congratulations Gail. Well Done!

NEGC Photography Group Coordinators

Arabella Dane, Chair Susan Miner, Advisor
Suzanne Bushnell, Assistant Michell Mensinger, Derry GC
Polly Brooks, NEGC, Inc. Director

SIGNUP FOR THE NEGC PHOTOGRAPHY NEWSLETTER

https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/2rgfxkA?source_id=89da8ec0-6dee-44e6-b79c-814ff91af43f&source_type=em&c=

To View Complete Photography Show

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_Yrlf4mVic

New England Garden Clubs, Inc.

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc



Did you know as a member of your garden club you are also a member of New England Garden Clubs, Inc. as well as National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Please visit and see what is happening throughout the New England Garden Clubs

<https://newenglandgc.org/about-us/>

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
National Headquarters
4401 Magnolia Avenue, St Louis, MO 63110-3492
www.gardenclub.org | 314-776-7574
headquareters@gardenclub.org

NGC is here to help make your club successful.
Contact membership@gardenclub.org

NGC President – Donna Donnelly
State of Residence: South Carolina
ddon21@aol.com



New England Garden Club, Inc.
Director – Polly Brooks
State of Residence: Connecticut
polly.brooks@ctgardenclubs.org



Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.
rigardenclubs.org (password: flowers)
President - Kathleen Damiani
kdamiani@yahoo.com | 401-323-5407



**Rhode Island Federation of
Garden Clubs, Inc.**

Visit our Website for a plethora of information
for your garden club.
rigardenclubs.org

Go to MEMBERS LOGIN

Password: flowers

Have Questions:

Contact information for
RIFGC Officers, Club Presidents, & Standing
Committee
Other Info:
By-laws, Budgets, RIFGC Policy & Procedure
Handbook, Forms & more.
Awards , Flower Show in a Box,
Classe, Symposiums, & Education
Judges Council, Life Member Group, Newsletter
& Minutes
Scholarships and so much more.

Our Website is always a work in progress, be
patient if you can't find something please
contact us.



**NATIONAL
GARDEN CLUBS**

Projects

NEW PLANT AMERICA GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Blue/Gold Star Memorial Beautification Grant!

Help beautify Blue and Gold Star Memorials in your
community! Learn about our new grant opportunity
in partnership with Keep America Beautiful, and
submit your application today.

APPLY NOW >

<https://www.ngcinc.org/>

RIFGC Leafing Through

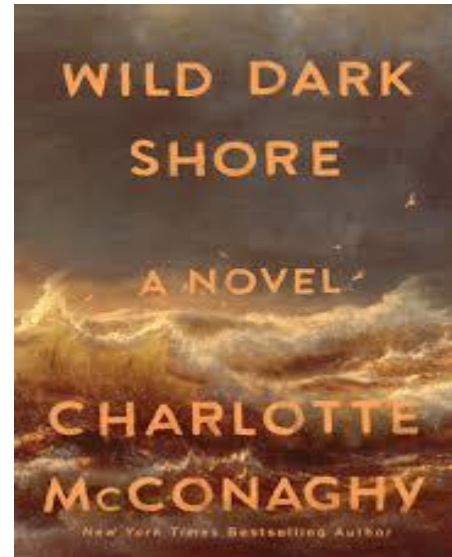
Book Review by Sandi Tinyk

Wild Dark Shore by Charlotte McConaghy

There has been much discussion of late of the need to save seeds. There are far-reaching implications for this, beyond the desire to replant your garden with favorite plants. The Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway is the world's backup plan for plant seeds in case of worldwide disasters. This vault provides long-term storage for duplicates of seeds from around the world, securing the world's food supply against the loss of seeds due to any number of factors, including natural disasters, funding cuts, mismanagement, equipment failures, war and disease.

The fictional *Wild Dark Shore* is set at a seed vault on a fictional island near Antarctica. Widower Dominic Salt, who works at the seed vault, and his three children live on Shearwater Island, where the crumbling seed bank is located. It is meant to safeguard biodiversity in the face of climate change. When a mysterious woman washes ashore alive, the family's world begins to unravel as secrets, rising tensions and a struggle for survival emerge. As the storm gains momentum, the family's secrets begin to emerge. The island serves not only as backdrop to the story, but as a reflection of the woman's turmoil.

On this island the living and the dead come together. The father (Dom) speaks to his



dead wife, his daughter is haunted by memories of a deceased brother, and the youngest boy interacts with the dead creatures of the island. It is both comforting and unnerving to hold onto the people we love even after they are gone. One dark image is the happily living seals and penguins wandering around enormous tubs once used to hold such animals when traders plundered the island. One can read this book as a thriller, with danger lurking around every corner, but also as an allegory: what do we do at the end of the world? Many snapshots reveal our similarities to wild creatures, such as the loss of a newborn whale and the way the other whales retrieve the dead baby and surround the mother whale to comfort her in her grief. This book vividly brings the setting to life, while forcing us to deal with what we can do in our debt to the future.

Plant a Tree

DONORS CAN NOW
CONTRIBUTE ANY AMOUNT,
STARTING FROM AS LITTLE
AS \$50 TO AS LARGE AS
\$10,000 MINIMUM
DONATION IS \$50.

Certificates as of May 31, 2025, in an effort to “Go Green”, we will be offering digital certificates donors can customize and print out themselves.

\$50.00 = 50 SAPLINGS

Donating to Specified Forest when donating, you may choose to have your donation go to where its most needed or you may select a National Forest. However, the Forest Service reserves the right to utilize funds based on need.

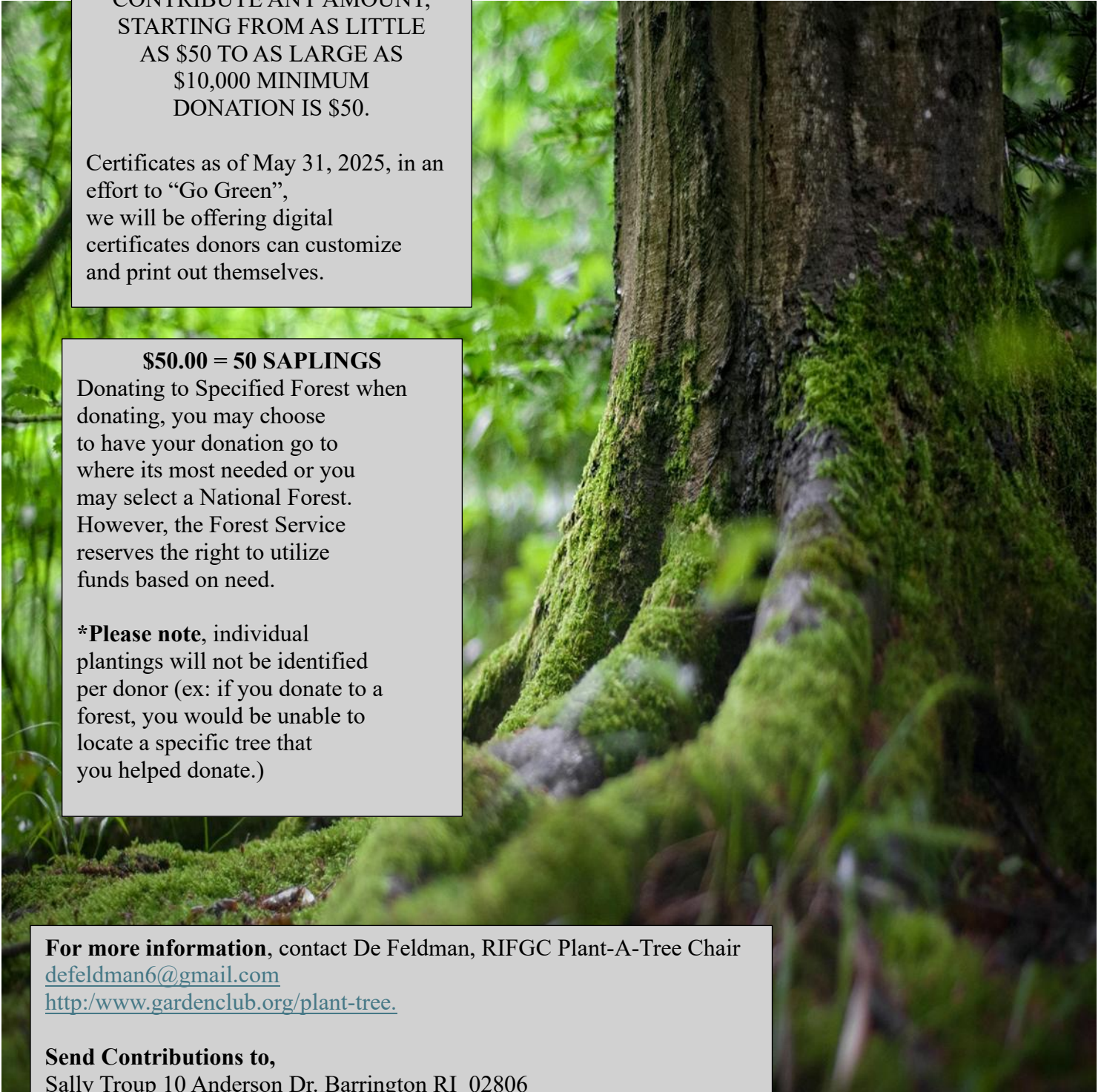
***Please note**, individual plantings will not be identified per donor (ex: if you donate to a forest, you would be unable to locate a specific tree that you helped donate.)

For more information, contact De Feldman, RIFGC Plant-A-Tree Chair
defeldman6@gmail.com
<http://www.gardenclub.org/plant-tree>.

Send Contributions to,

Sally Troup 10 Anderson Dr. Barrington RI 02806

Form was sent out in RIFGC Pres. Email Blast 9/22/25 or Request form by contacting, sally.troup@gmail.com





DESIGN STUDY
GROUP

*TRADITIONAL DESIGN
TECHNIQUES
WITH
DE FELDMAN
OCTOBER WORKSHOP*



Susan Escherich,
Hameho GC , working
with fresh flowers
brings out the smiles
in all of us.

L -Pricilla DiMarco, Hameho GC

R -De Feldman, Barrington GC and
Instructor for this on hands
workshop working with Traditional
Design Techniques.

Sustainable technique was
implemented replacing single use
floral foam with chicken wire.



Pat Yearwood, W.Cranston GC created this Fall Floral Design with the use of lilies, chrysanthemums, solidago, snapdragons, hypericum berries and greens.



L-R Sally Troup, Maria Kallis and Jane Mignone from Barrington Garden Club.

Design Study Group gives an opportunity for beginner designers to work with RIFGC Judges on the techniques and mechanics of working with fresh plant material in creating a design from the NGC Handbook of Flower Shows. This will encourage you all to create, practice and compete in a club or state flower show. Yes, this is where it all begins.

This is the first of three(3) workshops scheduled for this year with Blakely Szosz, Barrington GC and Maggie Rezendes, Bristol GC as Co-Chairs.

Have Questions/Want to Sign Up

Contact

MAGGIE REZENDES 508-361-9065

maggiekeene@yahoo.com

January's Workshop **FULL**

Please add your name to the wait list!

February Workshop **Open**

SIGN UP THE WORKSHOP IS FILLING UP FAST.

Design Study Workshop Flyer check September Newsletter and Pres. Email Blast dated Dec. 17th.



CAUTION
Floral Design can promote calm, happier, more focused, and less stress by lowering anxiety and providing a mindful, creative outlet that boosts well-being and promotes feelings of accomplishment, joy, and connection to nature.

Garden Club Members

FLOWER SHOW SEASON IS HERE!

Once again, I am honored, humble and thrilled to be chairing this year's RIFGC Design Specialty Flower Show, "Dearly Beloved...". Blakely Szosz's creative scheduling has successfully transformed the bridal theme from her Installation of State Officers Ceremony in April into an engaging floral design experience. Our classes are designed to be enjoyable and cater to all skill levels, encompassing Creative, Traditional, Novice, and Advanced Designs. For those who do not identify as floral designers, we also offer the Botanical Arts Artistic Craft Division, providing an opportunity to showcase your talents using plant material.

We are pleased to reintroduce that division that has been absent for several years but remains a popular choice. This winter, immerse yourself in a delightful crafting project. Consider creating items such as a garter belt, a ring box with a ring, or a bridal headpiece. Vicki Iannuccillo will be serving as the consultant for this division. Please, we would love to answer all your questions.

This year our show is a 3 day show but still require the same dedicated workforce to ensure the success of the show. While we anticipate student availability, there are scheduling uncertainties. RIFGC may also be organizing pop-up workshops, and I, Judy, will need the support of garden clubs. Therefore, whether you participate individually or as a group, we welcome your contributions to make this show a success.

We consistently seek volunteers to assist with setup and breakdown (no heavy lifting required), as well as sign and staging placement, painting, organizing, and hostess duties, among other tasks. The rewards of this experience significantly surpass any inconveniences related to traffic or parking. Opportunities include working alongside garden club members, making new connections,

collaborating with students, and engaging with flowers, all while enjoying laughter and even ironing (our apologies!).

We value the contributions of members with diverse skills, both large and small, as they are essential and greatly appreciated. Participation behind the scenes allows to see the entire process, which will undoubtedly be beneficial for any judged or non-judged show your club may organize.

On the federation website you will find:

- **Botanical Arts Artistic Craft Division Schedule and Registration is open.**
- **Design Division of the Schedule will be on website and registration by Jan 15.**

You will be able to find both (once posted) on our website rigardenclubs.org

If you have interest or not sure and would like a schedule sent to you via email and be put on my Flower Show Email Blast contact Judy Gray Judy.gray123@gmail.com 603 707 7785



Thursday April 10 - 12 2026

Rhode Island Convention Center
Providence RI

Edgewood Garden Club Presents:
“Secret Gardens By The Bay”

Saturday, June 20, 2026, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Rain or Shine!



Tour more than a dozen private and public gardens in Pawtuxet Village and Edgewood.

For tickets and other information:
www.edgewoodgardenclub.net

RIFGC Newsletter Submission Deadline: March 1st

We kindly request submissions of your club's or committee's activities, meeting highlights, event flyers, and any other pertinent materials. Your contributions are highly valued, and we encourage submissions before the deadline. Please use the subject line: RIFGC Winter Newsletter.

Please ensure that any accompanying images are submitted separately from the written articles, although they may be included within the same email.

Look for the Holiday Special Edition Newsletter in the coming weeks.
Deadline Sat Jan. 10th.

Thanks Judy Gray, Newsletter judy.gray123@gmail.com

Did You Know?



Vera Bowen was educated in England where she meant Kevin. This is where her journey begins living in the states. With boyfriend in hand, they came to the US to spend the summer with his parents. Kevin had quit work to go back to graduate school in Hawaii in the fall. At summer's end, my flight was

delayed to go back to England, since we were at the airport, we decided to go a pub. Through dinner and drinks, Kevin asked me to stay, marry him and move to Hawaii. This was not the first time, twice before he had asked, this time I said yes.

His parents were delighted seeing me walking back into their home with Kevin. We were engaged and married within 5 weeks. A whirlwind to say the least, several of my family members came over for the wedding.

We set out to drive cross country and move to Hawaii. In Hawaii Kevin was back at school, and I went to work at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. We had opposite schedules, where I worked nights and Kevin had school through the days. In order to spend more time together I decided to take Scuba Diving Classes. Diving became a lifelong passion!

After Hawaii we moved to San Diego. I got my certification and ran a Day Care Center. I loved the children and one of them ultimately became my God Daughter.

From California we moved to JAPAN. 18 Months in Japan was incredible. I was Snowy Owl for a

Brownie Troup (young Girl Scouts). We took Japanese language classes, that helped a bit. From Japan we took 11 weeks and Island hopped our way home. We 'DOVE' our way back to the US Guam, Saipan, Truk Lagoon, Majuro, Palau and Hawaii.

We moved to New York for a while then on to San Antonio, Texas for 18 months where I worked for a Child Abuse Organization (Parents Anonymous). A sad job. I was trying desperately to have children and to see people who abused their kids tore at my heart. From Texas to Idaho for a year. We landed back in New York where I worked for Hospice Care of Long Island. The hardest job I have ever had. I cried in my car every night coming home. We moved back to San Diego. Kevin's work kept us moving. We had 5 moves in seven years! Barely had our bags packed and off we were again.

Once back in California we had Kevin's parent move from New York and live with us. I had my own Hospice at home. I took good care of them, not always with a pure heart. After their passing, Kevin was diagnosed with a stage 4 Lymphoma originally given 1 year to live (he's still kicking which only goes to prove that only the good die young).

It was announced we were moving to Rhode Island. I went kicking and screaming as we packed up one more time. I joined Bristol Garden Club and my life changed. Later I joined the Bayberry Garden Club in Bristol, which meant in the evening.

I held the position of Bristol Garden Club President, State President 2009-2011, and New England Region Director, (which today is known as New England Garden Clubs, Inc.). An NGC board member for 19 years holding several different positions. An NGC Accredited-Master Judge since 2011. RIFGC Flower Show and Newport Flower Show committee for 20 years.

If that wasn't enough 16 years ago, during my term as State President I started working at the ACI.

I am President of Garden Time a 501(c)3. This project has taken on a life of its own. I work in three prisons. I work with prisoners who are in for life, building and planting gardens. All the fruits and vegetables that we grow are shared with the whole inmate population. Another program we started three(3) years ago, an after prison

program for the formally incarcerated. This program is highly successful. We also have contracts with the Cities of Providence and Pawtucket where we have a canopy crew who water, feed and trim street trees.

In 2019 I took scuba diving trip around the world. AWESOME!! This next year I will go to Oman for what will probably be my last scuba dive. I love to read, spend time with my friends and generally am just grateful for my life and most of the people in it.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DAY

MARCH 5TH

Great Lineup of Speakers

Nan Morella, Pres. of Fed. Garden Clubs of Ct.

Garden Time's Canopy Crew

Farming Turtles, Micro Greens

**INFORMATION ON
THIS FREE EVENT
INCLUDING HOW TO
REGISTER WILL BE
ANNOUNCED SOON**



**THURS.
10AM**

**WM Hall Library Auditorium
1825 Broad St Cranston**

RHODE ISLAND FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

Life Member Group Scholarship 2025

Invest In Students Fostering A Future In The Green Industry

Students enrolled in accredited college/university in the United States. Must be a resident within the areas served by RIFGC, Inc.

Sophomores thru Graduate Studies with a GPA 3.25 horticulture, floriculture, landscape design, conservation, botany, plant pathology, forestry, agronomy, environmental concerns, city planning, land management and/or allied subjects.

Members and Non-Members How to Invest

- Life Member Group Membership Invest
A One Time \$100 Donation
- Donate To Honor A Friend's Passion
(monetary amount)
- Estate Planning

[HTTPS://RIGARDENCLUBS.ORG/MEMBERS-
AREA/LIFE-MEMBER-GROUP/](https://rigardenclubs.org/members-area/life-member-group/)

DONATIONS

Make check out to: RIFGC, Inc.

Memo: LMG

Send to: Sally Troup

10 Anderson Dr, Barrington, RI 02806

Email: sally.troup@gmail.com



Extra ~ Extra....

This photo got away from me this past summer in the Newport Flower Show Newsletter. My apologies for the oversight. Kudos! It Was Magical.

Sweet Pea Dollhouse Miniature 'A Floral Fair', Newport Flower Show

June 2025



Colleen Gebhard, Portsmouth GC member entered a personal creation in miniatures as a non-competitive exhibit.

"Tess goes to the Fair (of 1893)"

"Tess" relates to the theme of the show: Floral Fair and celebrates Rosecliff's owner, Theresa Fair Olerich. Thus, using a theme of a play on her maiden name, entries showcased her life and accomplishments during the period of the Golden Age.

CONGRATULATIONS



The Gentian Garden Club is proud to be the first-ever community organization drafted into the Scituate Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Scituate Preservation Society. This honor recognizes citizens and groups who have had a positive impact on the town.

Our longest-serving members Barbara Colvin and Nancy Mende accepted the certificate along with a bouquet of flowers.

Our name will also appear on a plaque in historic Grange #39, the Scituate Preservation Society headquarters. We have been happy to serve and beautify Scituate since 1935!

Flower Show In A Box

RI Judges' Council



The Rhode Island Judges' Council is pleased to offer Flower Show in a Box to the RI Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

We want to encourage clubs to have a Small Standard Flower Show and Flower Show in a Box will give you tools to execute a show smoothly.

We are here to present this program to garden clubs and be a mentor throughout the planning process.

Consider having a Flower Show!

Please Contact ~ Cathy Moore csimplymoore54@gmail.com